(2) All trunk pipelines covering more than one State or operating at a pressure more than the notified level will be built/managed by a Company to be notified by the Government and till it is notified by GAIL.

(3) Subject to prior permission of the regulator, any producer of gas will have the right to sell gas within 100 kms. of well head or land fall point to consumers directly and lay the pipeline for this purpose.

(4) All gas pipelines except captive transmission gas pipelines laid for exclusive use of a large consumer will be built on common carrier prinicple.

(5) The pipelines will be used by all players on non-discriminatory basis.

(6) Tariff for the transmission pipeline and/or for the distribution pipelines would be approved by the regulator.

(7) To promote and develop the gas sector, a National Advisory Council will be set up.

(c) Yes, Sir. For setting up a regulatory mechanism for petroleum and natural gas sector, the Government have introduced 'Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill-2002', which is before the Parliament.

(d) The Pipeline Policy will put in place a policy framework which will facilitate the development of natural gas sector in a systematic manner and will encourage investment both from public as well as private sector.

FDI in LNG sector

745. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had placed LNG sector under General Licence list and have also permitted 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment, with a view to bridge the gap between demand and supply of natural gas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of project received for foreign investment in this field and what decision Government had taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ONGC's Agreement with Non-Public Financial Institutions

746. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC is planning to rope in non-public sector financial institutions for hiring people at market related pay packages; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the stake to be held by the corporation in the joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In view of recent policy changes in the Hydrocarbon sector, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking in the upstream Hydrocarbon sector, intends to expand its business through value chain integration encompassing refining and marketing sectors also, so that it can effectively face market competition. In this scenario, examination of various options, including formation of Joint ventures, by the management of ONGC, for efficient structure and to seize emerging business opportunities, has been a continuous process. ONGC has informed that their Board of Directors has not taken any decision on formation of the said Non-Government Joint Venture, as of now.

Petrol pump in Alaknanda of South Delhi

747. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no petrol/CNG pump in the vicinity of Alaknanda and Greater Kailash-II area of South Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that customers have to drive down 2/4 kms. for filling up petrol;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to set up petrol pump in that area on a priority basis; and